



## Marry in Scandal

*Anne Gracie*

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**A shy heiress and a well-known rake face a scandal-forced marriage that might be true love in the latest irresistible romance from the national bestselling author of *Marry in Haste*.**

Shy young heiress, Lady Lily Rutherford, is in no hurry to marry. She dreams of true love and a real courtship. But when disaster strikes, she finds herself facing a scandal-forced marriage to her rescuer, Edward Galbraith, a well known rake.

Despite his reputation Lily is drawn to the handsome Galbraith. In the gamble of her life, she agrees to marry him, hoping to turn a convenient marriage into a love match.

As heir to a title, Galbraith knows he must wed, so a convenient marriage suits him perfectly. But there is a darkness in his past, and secrets he refuses to share with his tender-hearted young bride. All Lily's efforts to get close to him fall on stony ground, and in desperation she retreats to his childhood home--the place he's avoided for nearly a decade.

Must Lily reconcile herself to a marriage without love? Or will Galbraith realize that this warm-hearted, loving girl is the key to healing the wounds of his past--and his heart?

## Marry in Scandal Details

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# From Reader Review Marry in Scandal for online ebook

## Sissy's Romance Book Review says

Marry in Scandal by Anne Gracie is book Two in the Marriage of Convenience series. This is the story of Lady Lily Rutherford and Edward Galbraith. I haven't yet read the previous book, so for me this was a standalone book.

Lily was holding out for a true courtship and true love but a mishap has her tied to Edward. Lily has a disability that made her wish for the true love part as to ease her life into a marriage. But moving forward Lily tries to find love with Edward but he won't open up to her and is standing on a marriage of convenience. Edward knows of Lily's Innocent and of her friendship with his sister but with one kiss is all it takes to opens him to seeing her as more. Edward has past issues that he hasn't dealt with that make what Lily wants from him hard to give but he wants her.

Ms. Gracie knows who to write a book that takes you through so many emotions! I am just crazy about her books and this one did not disappoint!

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## kris says

Lady Lily Rutherford gets kidnapped by a jackass and she has a SECRET. Edward Galbraith rescues her and HE TOO HAS A SECRET. Kissing, scandal, marriage, sex, emotions, revealing of secrets, THE END.

1. HER SECRET IS THAT SHE CANNOT READ. OTHER BOOKS HAVE DONE IT BETTER.

2. HIS SECRET IS THAT HE HAS SURVIVOR'S GUILT. OTHER BOOKS HAVE DONE IT BETTER.

3. This just didn't *stick*. Lily just a golden-hearted idol with nothing to her beyond her dyslexia. Ned is 900% not present until his ~big reveal which is ultimately both too obvious and too small. So much of the plot felt underdeveloped and incomplete. Ned's realization of feelings happens off site, off *page* and without any narrative. Lily's realization of feelings happens so early as to mean practically nothing and then goes no where as she struggles with ~trying to make Ned love her.

4. It's just inoffensive and *dull* and I don't even have that much to say about it because it just—didn't do anything for me in any way.

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## Annie says

Started off fine, but lost steam near the middle and didn't gain it back. The end plot was too quick and wasn't rewarding.

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## Caz says

Readers first met Lily Rutherford, heroine of **Marry in Scandal** (the second book in Anne Gracie's *Marriage of Convenience* series), in *Marry in Haste*, where she was introduced as one of the two somewhat unruly sisters of its hero, Cal, Earl of Ashendon. Now eighteen years old, Lily, her sister, Rose and their niece, Georgiana (who is of an age with them) are all partaking of the London season under the chaperonage of their dragon of an Aunt Augusta, who orders them about, and bullies them (or tries to) into doing whatever she wants them to.

Being the quieter of the three, Lily is usually the main target for Aunt Augusta's lectures and disparaging comments, many of which relate to the fact that Lily has never been able to learn to read or write, and was regarded by their late father as stupid. Lily's 'shortcoming' is not widely known however, and given she is an heiress, their aunt holds out hope that there may be a man out there who is desperate enough to marry her. All Lily wants is someone who will love and care for her, and whom she can love and care for in return, yet Aunt Agatha insists on thrusting the trio of young ladies into the paths of the sorts of cold, ennui-laden, self-important gentlemen they dislike - and Lily's refusal to attend the opera so she can meet a duke and two of his friends all but sends the older lady into apoplexy.

It's unusual for Lily to stand up to their aunt so strongly, but she refuses to be cowed on this occasion. Agatha always makes her feel fat (naturally, Lily isn't fat, but lusciously curved) and stupid, and she wants to escape from her aunt's censure for a few hours; and besides, she has agreed to attend another event because she has promised to meet an old schoolmate there. Sadly for Lily however, her promise almost proves her undoing. At the function, she is introduced to the handsome and charming Victor Nixon - who proceeds to slip Lily a mickey, construct a weak excuse to get her outside and then bundle her into a carriage that immediately takes off at speed. Drugged, bound and confused, Lily doesn't know what's happening until she hears her captor and his companion bandying around words like 'bride' and 'heiress' - and realises they must be heading to Gretna Green.

Lily may be quiet and shy, but she discovers her backbone during the uncomfortable journey, and at last manages to escape, running headlong into the path of the coach containing Mr. Edward Galbraith, a notorious rake and friend of Cal's, who immediately comes to her rescue. Nixon and his henchman are summarily dispatched and, having ascertained Lily's identity, Edward determines to take her home.

The difficulty is going to be in keeping Lily's identity and standing as an unmarried lady a secret while they are on the way back to London. Edward has no wish to be forced into marriage because society perceives Lily has been compromised - so they have to be incredibly careful to stop in out-of-the-way places where it's unlikely anyone of their acquaintance will see them. Things go in their favour - until the very last leg of the journey when one of Aunt Agatha's rivals sees Lily and starts spreading rumours of her ruin the moment she gets back to London.

When Edwards hears them, he's furious. He doesn't want to be married, but he can't stand by and let an innocent young woman be falsely accused and publicly ruined. He likes Lily, admires her intelligence and pluck and is most definitely attracted to her lush body, but he knows she wants to marry for love and that's the one thing he cannot give her. If, however, he offers for Lily but makes it clear from the start that love isn't an option... then perhaps marriage isn't completely out of the question.

*Marry is Scandal* doesn't break any new ground, but it's an easy, undemanding read featuring two attractive principals who have lots of lovely romantic chemistry, and I enjoyed it. Lily is the more well-drawn of the two protagonists and undergoes the most character growth; she has spent all her life hurting and lacking confidence because of her father's rejection and belief that she must be stupid because she was unable to learn to read or write, and I was rooting for her as she learnt to stand up for herself and to fight for the man

she loves. Edward is rather stereotypical; another of those marriage-shy bachelors with such deep hurt in his past that he believes himself unworthy of love or happiness, but for all that, he's an attractive hero, and Ms. Gracie clearly shows the reader that he's falling hard for Lily in spite of his determination to remain detached. She injects a little bit of mystery into the story courtesy of his flat refusal to return home, even though he loves the place and the grandfather who practically raised him – but his about-face and coming to terms with the past come rather too late in the story to feel anything other than rushed and glossed over.

There's an engaging and well-characterised secondary cast in the story, and it's refreshing to discover Edward's grandfather is a decent, kind man who loves his grandson dearly rather than one of those ruthless, harsh and dictatorial father-figures so often found in the genre. The writing is smooth and laced with warmth and gentle humour, and in short, **Marry in Scandal** is sure to appeal to fans of the marriage-of-convenience trope and to anyone looking for a charming and sweetly sensual historical romance without too much overblown drama.

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### **Juliana Philippa says**

*Something had begun, in that trip back from Yorkshire, and every instinct she had was to nurture it. She felt certain—as certain as a girl full of doubts could—that this was what she had to do. She loved Edward and would do her very best to make him the best wife she could be. And she would hope and pray that he would become the loving kind of husband she'd always dreamed of. He might be marrying in scandal, but she would marry in hope.*

**3.5 stars** ~~Still deciding between 3.5 and 4 stars~~

**Our Heroine.** Lady Lily Rutherford (18) is an heiress, the daughter of an earl, and youngest of three siblings. Her brother (the new Earl) is the hero of Book 1, but if you haven't read it, don't worry; I hadn't and I don't think it took anything away from my enjoyment. She's the sweet, "meek," quiet one of the group (in addition to her siblings, there is her niece, Georgiana, or "George," who is actually older than her and hysterical as f\*\*\*! Can't wait for her story). Lily doesn't know how to read or write (from the description, it seems like dyslexia), and she is very self-conscious about this and it really defines a lot about her and how her family treats her and is so protective. She's not as pretty as her sister, Rose, and George, and is the plumper, shier one of the trio.

*It was a disgrace, her greatest shame. And she had no excuse for it. There was nothing at all wrong with her eyesight. She could see perfectly well to embroider, to knit, to pluck a stray hair from her eyebrows. It was stupidity, that was all. There could be no other answer. She didn't feel stupid, but the evidence to the contrary was overwhelming.*

I didn't fall in love with Lucy, but I did grow to like her a whole hell of a lot. She really grows in the book, and I appreciated that; I liked seeing her become stronger, stick up for herself, face things head-on, take what she wants, etc. It was definitely what I liked best about her character, and I can't really put my finger on what spark was missing for me. Somehow, she was just a bit too washed out or a bit too ... placid, is maybe the right word. She evolves a lot though, so I don't know if the impression was so strong at the beginning that that just stuck with me, or if Gracie was a bit inconsistent at times and the old Lucy came through too much.

*Aunt Agatha's advice was all very well, but Lily was fed up with pretending all was well when it wasn't. And she wasn't going to be plagued by questions any longer.*

**Our Hero.** Mr. Edward (Ned) Galbraith (27) is friends with Cal, Lily's brother, and was the best man at his wedding. He's basically alone in the world, except for his grandfather, whom he's incredibly fond of and who is extremely fond of him. His parents were pretty horrible, and at the age of 6 he went off to live with his grandfather in the country; his grandfather is Lord Galbraith, but I'm not sure what level his title is. He enlisted in the army when he was 18, much to his father and grandfather's dismay, and ever since leaving for the war, he has not returned to his childhood (his grandfather's) home. They're not estranged, he just won't go home, and it's a big mystery to us, the readers, as well as to everyone else, why that's the case.

*He'd been more or less alone since his first weeks in the army. Since that first battle. Surrounded by men, but essentially alone. A few friends, but not the kind of friends he'd had before.*

I really liked Edward and thought he was a sweet hero. When we first meet him, he literally *is* a hero, because he saves Lily (after she has saved herself). His hang-ups could have easily been harped on too much, but Gracie managed that line very finely, so that he didn't come off as annoyingly tortured. His determination to not fall in love is the oldest trope in the book for our beloved romance heroes, but this was also well-managed. Yes, he's determined to not let Lily get too close, but it wasn't overboard. I did feel that the turnaround came a bit quick and rushed at the end, but oh well.

*Dammit! Ned had revealed more than he meant to. It was harder than he'd expected, being married and keeping himself to himself. The trouble was, his wife had this way about her, a way of causing him to lower his barriers without realizing it—until it was too late.*

**Summary.** I really don't feel like this counts as a spoiler, because it happens at the very beginning and is really the core of the first half of the story (as always, the back cover summary is misleading and doesn't actually tell you much).

Short version? (view spoiler) Unfortunately, attempts to hush over her absence don't work, she and Edward's names become linked, her reputation is on the brink of being ruined, and so he offers and she accepts (despite her family's protestations). The rest of the book is their honeymoon, the beginning of their marriage, them working out some trust issues, and both coming to terms with their feelings for one another. Besides for the aforementioned huge ass prick, there is no real needless-mystery subplot, which makes for a nice change.

**Reaction.** I definitely enjoyed the book, the characters, and the relationship development. The chemistry was great and there were some lovely laugh-out-loud moments. As I already mentioned, I really appreciated Lily's character development; whereas Edward's development comes from accepting love into his life and coming to terms with the past, Lily's is much more internal, but lovely to watch. I also appreciated that for once, a heroine didn't feel the need to rush everything, and understood that marriage is for a long-ass time and if her husband doesn't feel a certain way at one point, it doesn't mean that that will always be the case.

For me, a 3.5-star romance rating means I'm glad I read it, but wouldn't reread, whereas a 4-star and above indicates it's worth rereads in the future. And this is where I'm torn, because I'm not sure if I will want to reread this. There was a little spark missing and some things that annoyed me, for instance Lily's naiveté and way-too-trusting nature, which sometimes almost bordered on TSTL, and her belief way too early that she might be in love with Edward. On the other hand, there were great aspects, as I've described above, which is what make the book worth reading in the first place ... Will have to come back to this to make a final decision.

**Excerpt.** Really funny exchange between Cal, Lily's brother, and Ned, when they finally get back to London.

*"The messenger told me when you carried my sister into that godforsaken village inn, she was naked but for a fur rug."*

*"Not naked—under the rug, she was wearing one of my shirts."*

*Cal's fists clenched. "Why was she virtually naked? Did that bastard—?"*

*"No, that was my doing. I made her strip—"*

*"Your doing?" Cal took two steps and grabbed Ned by the throat. "You stripped my baby sister naked, and—"*

*Ned broke his hold and pushed him away. "Calm down, you fool, it's not what you think. She stripped herself." Some demon of provocation made him add, "And if you haven't noticed, she's no longer a baby."*

*"You bastard." Cal threw a punch.*

### **Recommendations.**

This book is much a marriage-to-avoid-scandal than marriage-of-convenience (I consider those two different things). Here are my favorite of the former:

- *The Devil Takes a Bride* by Julia London — ⑤ my review
- *Her Christmas Earl* by Anna Campbell — ⑤ my review
- *Devil in Spring* by Lisa Kleypas — ④½ my review
- *The Scoundrel's Honor* by Christi Caldwell — ④½
- *The Lady Who Loved Him* by Christi Caldwell — ④½ my review

My other Anne Gracie recommendation:

- *The Perfect Rake* by Anne Gracie — ⑤ my review

**\*An ARC was provided to me by Net Galley and the publisher in exchange for an honest review; certain quotes may be different in the finished book**

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### **Sharon says**

The author is really good at writing endings. The last quarter is pretty amazing. Like the 1st book, it takes way too long for the buildup of the plot.

I was looking forward to Lily's book, but she was kinda eh for most of it except for a bit in the beginning and the ending. I like Edward, especially when we get his backstory towards the end. His grandfather is the sweetest!

So overall. **3 stars (maybe 2.5)**. Solid last quarter of the book, but the middle was so blah.

Things that you might want to know (WARNING: Spoilers below)

Happy/satisfying ending? (view spoiler)

Love triangle? Cheating? Angst level? (view spoiler)

Tears-worthy? (view spoiler)

Humor? (view spoiler)

Favorite scenes? (view spoiler)

What age level would be appropriate? (view spoiler)

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### **Joanna Loves Reading says**

4.5 Stars for a lovely story. It would have been five, but the big mystery was a bit disappointing to me. Great marriage of convenience that turns into love transition. Really enjoyed listening to it!

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### **Dot Salvagin says**

Another winner from Anne Gracie. This story just grabs the reader with emotion packed scenes and dialog. There is a heroic intervention by Edward when he saves Lily from kidnappers. But in saving her life he may ruin her reputation. Can this battle-scarred man learn to love? Can loving a man be enough when he doesn't love you back? This author can bring a story to life with action, adventure, and sensuality. This is a standalone novel in this series.

I received this book free for review from the publisher.

More reviews on my blog: <http://ladeetdareads.wordpress.com>

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### **Adria (Musings and Reviews) says**

Originally posted on Adria's Musings and Reviews

\* A copy of this book was provided by the publisher via NetGalley for the purpose of an honest review. All conclusions are my own responsibility and I was not compensated for this review.

What's it About? Lady Lily Rutherford dreams of marrying for love but when she finds herself in the middle of a disaster, she has no choice but to marry her rescuer and known rake, Edward Galbraith. Despite being forced to marry in order to avoid scandal, Lily is drawn to Edward and hopes to turn their marriage of convenience into a real one. Edward however doesn't want a real marriage, he has secrets in his past that he'd rather not share with Lily so he keeps her at arm's length until she finally leaves and runs to Edward's childhood home, a place he hasn't seen in years. Once there, Lily starts to piece together her husband's secrets as she waits to see if he will come for her and face his past or leave her to live a separate life from him.

Overall reaction to the story? Anne Gracie really won me over with the first book in this series (Marry in Haste), Cal Rutherford's story introduced his two half sisters, Rose and Lily. Lily's come a long way in a short time but she is still that same smart, shy girl with a big heart.

I was a little nervous about reading Marry in Scandal though. I was afraid Lily would be dull and too much



of a pushover as a heroine. She's a clever woman now but at the same time she still had that fragile, naïve air of the little girl she once was. I liked grown up Lily because while she wasn't as outspoken and mischievous as her sister Rose and definitely not wild like her niece Georgiana, Lily had a silent but no less determined personality. She didn't scold, she didn't nag, and she didn't get hysterical even though at certain times it would have been totally justified. I loved her way of handling Edward who could be quite the bear from time to time. Lily never reacted in a shrewish way; instead she countered his attitude with patience, firmness, and compassion, the last of which is one of her defining qualities. I loved that about her, she was sweet but not a pushover.

Edward on the other hand was closed off, surly and very secretive but underneath that is a man with a heart as big as Lily's. He just doesn't handle loss very well. I actually do enjoy the grumpy heroes, the ones who have all but shut themselves off from the world and only exist without living. It makes it all the more satisfying when they fall in love. In Edward's case I love that he was overwhelmed by Lily's quiet presence in his life. He was befuddled by her even as he was attracted to her. Their romance was slow in progressing from infatuation to attraction and then to love but in the meantime Marry in Scandal grants the reader a chance to really get to know Edward and Lily and to reacquaint themselves with Lily's unconventional family. Lily's sister Rose and niece Georgiana are both older and still as feisty as ever. Rose is a lady with a sharp tongue and a fierce loyalty to her loved ones. Georgiana on the other hand may have the same fierce loyalty as Rose but she spent quite a bit of time running wild before she was discovered. She loves animals more than people (My kind of character), can ride and shoot like a man, and has rebellion swimming in her veins. I can't wait for her to get her own story and I hope she retains that spirited attitude.

Marry in Scandal is its own story, Lily and Edward are for the most part, on their own away from Lily's family so that they can get to know each other. The book is a standalone but I would highly recommend reading the series in order. I loved the first book and I loved this one as well.

Click It or Skip It? Click It. Lily's gentle spirit will win you over just like she did Edward.

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## **Esther says**

ARC provided by NetGalley and Publisher for an honest review. I voluntarily read and reviewed an advanced copy of this book. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

First time reading this author.

Lady Lily Rutherford is holding out for true love. Even though her not so nice Aunt is determined to marry her, her sister and niece off to cold, arrogant, titled men of the ton. But Lily dreams of true love. She know she has some challenges that need to be overcome, as her dearest Aunt continues to point out. Lily can't read and as been disparaged by her Father and Aunt to be made to feel small and "stupid". But thankfully she has a great support system with her sisters and niece.

Edward Galbraith, is known as cold and aloof. He's aware that he's being pursued for his future title and has no wish to marry. He has baggage that just is too burdensome and troubling to bring into a marriage. Edward sister and Lily are friends.

Lily defies her dearest Aunt and attends an event to meet up with some past schoolmate. Unbeknownst to Lily a plan has been hatched to abduct and take her inheritance. But she finds a knight in shining armor in Edward. The two are put in a compromising situation (due to traveling together) and her reputation is in jeopardy. So again Edward, being a gentleman does the right thing and marries Lily.

And so the two begin learning about each other and they start developing feelings for each other. But insecurities come in to play as well as deep secrets and hurts that need to be revealed.

The writing at times was good, flow of the book in there first couple chapters anyway (though I did think it took a little to long to introduce Edward). But as I progress I found the flow to be stifled as characters seemed to disappear or drop off. Also some issues seemed unresolved, Auntie needed some closer. And then there was Sylvia that was unresolved in my book. I also found some of Lily's behavior a little to naive, like why meet someone who hands you a note that you can't really read?!?! And Edwards reveal could have been dealt with sooner in my opinion. Also the end seemed rush and clumsily put together.

I will try this author again, this one book was just not as promising as I hoped.

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## **Helen says**

It is no secret that Anne Gracie is one of my favourite authors and this story is going on my favourite list as well, I savoured every word in this delightfully beautiful story I made it last because, although I wanted to get to that HEA I wanted to stay with Lily and Edward as long as I could, actually it was fabulous being with Cal and Emm, and Lily's sister Rose and niece Georgiana again. Do yourself a favour and make yourself comfortable for a journey that is sure to leave you smiling.

Lady Lily Rutherford is young shy and has a disability that that causes her shame and problems but her family are there to support and help her and this is one reason why Lily is in no hurry to marry another reason she wants to marry for love, even though her aunt is pushing for her find a suitable husband. While Lily is at a ton rout disaster happens and Lily is abducted and whisked away by a no good cur. Lily shows such strength though her ordeal and is rescued by Edward Galbraith a cold hearted rake or is he?

Edward is shocked to see the woman standing in the freezing rain on the road, as a gentleman he rescues her and saves her not realizing who she is, but of course a gentleman and a Lady of the ton do not travel together even in these circumstances without scandal, and Edward is drawn to her, a sister of his friend although she is so very innocent that first kiss sets sparks flying and when Edward proposes marriage a marriage of convenience and Lily after some thought accepts this starts a journey for Edward, will Lily get under that brick wall that Edward has built around himself since the war?

MS Gracie has a knack at bringing the regency period and her characters to life on the pages, humour abounds as does love and a sensuality that will have you falling into the story and falling in love with her heroes and heroines, in this case Edward and Lily, this one is a beauty moving, emotional and so very delicious, I loved it from page one, seeing Lily and then Edward fall for each other is a dream and I highly recommend it and woohoo I look forward to more in this series George and Rose's stories are sure to be another hit. Thank you MS Gracie you have left this reader so very happy fabulous story.

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## **Els says**

Anne Gracie never disappoint.

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## **Mei says**

Mmmm... It could be that the heroine is too young for my taste...  
She reminded me of Melanie Hamilton from *Gone with the Wind*, remember?

She has a golden heart and is full of good intentions, but she's soooo **naive!!!**

She also has a big problem: she cannot read (I think she's dyslexic, but it is never thoroughly explained).

I can understand that's a big problem, but she's been hiding it from the hero for too long.

I had the feeling that the hero was kind of absent from the story... she's the main character. He was present, but also somehow suspended from it all... I don't know how to explain better...

It was kind of bland romance. Yes, full of good intentions, but also with kind of stupid villains...

It's not completely bad, but I could do without it. Lily is such an insignificant heroine and I wasn't involved. she and her naive actions almost gave me a toothache, they're so sweet!

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## **Alexandria Jane says**

To my chagrin, this book was such an utter disappointment. While Annie Gracie has never been one of my favorite authors, her books are always solidly decent and engaging. However, this book was simply dreadfully dull. It was a complete chore to get through. A complete snooze fest.

The beginning of the book starts out decently enough. Lady Lily Rutherford is kidnapped (a real shake up from the typical trope of random kidnapping at the end of books) for her inheritance. In the process of escaping she runs into her brother's friend Edward Galbraith.

Edward Galbraith isn't really sure what to think about Lily (other than that she gets his engines running), but knows he has to return her home safely. However, when word gets out that they traveled through the countryside together, scandal and propriety forces them to marry.

All of this is set up for a greatly entertaining book but it just fell flat. It was definite insta-love on Lady Lily's part. Of course her infatuation makes sense—Edward did save her life. However, I never really felt like Lady Lily moved past her hero worship of Edward. Her feelings for him reminded me more of a young girl's endless devotion to a boy band than a deep love grown out of mutual respect. Furthermore, I just found Lady Lily a thoroughly annoying character. Gracie waxes on about Lady Lily's loyalty and ability to forgive but

all I saw was a girl that lets everyone walk all over her.

Edward wasn't much better. He was a very angsty man who just wallowed in his own misery for most of the book. For the life of me, I couldn't see why Lily found him so appealing. The chemistry between Edward and Lily (other than during sexy times) felt non-existent. There were too many scenes in this book where they just sat in comfortable silence. While I understand that some people are more talkative than others, and that "comfortable silence" is important, one does need to converse to build a proper relationship.

I give this book two stars instead of one because it never made me angry or deeply uncomfortable. I never wanted to chuck my Kindle at the ground or murder one of the main characters. Furthermore, it was well written. That is it for the nice things I have to say about this book. It was painstakingly boring and the characters were annoying. Definitely a miss.

Check out my blog: [sunflowersandromance.com](http://sunflowersandromance.com)

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### **steph says**

It was okay.

Ned's character wasn't developed until the -nth hour and Lily was adorable but far too naive at times. I'll continue reading this series though, mostly because I want George's story.

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